

LAWYER IS WARNED IN DR. KING CASE

MEMPHIS, Sept. 27 (UPI)—A Federal judge held off charging a county public defender yesterday with contempt of court, providing the lawyer now opens state records on the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the defense attorneys of the confessed killer, James Earl Ray.

Edward Thompson has refused to open the files, despite an order by United States District Judge Robert M. McRae on Aug. 23 giving Mr. Ray's defense attorneys access to "relevant" records.

James Lesar, of Washington, D. C., one of three lawyers for Mr. Ray, asked Judge McRae to charge Mr. Thompson with contempt of court unless he opened the files. Judge McRae said yesterday that he would levy the charge if Mr. Thompson again refused to comply with his August order within a reasonable time.

The State of Tennessee has appealed Judge McRae's order to the United States Court of Appeals for the sixth circuit, and Mr. Thompson has said that the files will remain shut until then.

The attorneys want to inspect the documents to prepare for Mr. Ray's Oct. 22 Federal Court hearing to determine if he was coerced into pleading guilty.